



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of Crain, et al.
 Serial No. 09/648,942 ✓
 Filed August 25, 2000
 Confirmation No. 6282
 For SURVEYING POLE
 Examiner Tania C. Courson

Art Unit 2859

July 17, 2002

AMENDMENT A

TO THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS,

SIR:

In response to the Office action of February 13, 2002, please enter the following amendments. A check in payment of the fee for two months extension and additional claim fees is submitted herewith.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 16, line 11 as follows:

The female and male fittings 36', 116' are particularly constructed to permit accurate axial alignment of the third and fourth pole sections 128, 130 when they are screwed together. A common difficulty for conventional screw-together sections is that debris between the fittings can cause one fitting (and hence one pole section) to be tilted slightly relative to the other. Even a relatively small bit of debris can significantly affect the alignment of the pole sections. Thus, the female and male fittings 36', 116' of the present invention are formed so that the area of contact of the fittings when screwed together is limited to a thin annular contact surface 134. The pertinent construction of the female and male fittings 36', 116' to form the annular contact surface 134 is the same, so only the construction of the female fitting 36' is shown (Figs. 19 and 19A) and described hereinafter. The thin annular contact surface

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